



## Human Rights Commission Minutes

**Date:** Wednesday, July 21, 2021

**Time:** 8:00 PM- 10:00 PM

**Location:** Conducted by Remote Participation

**\*Notice to the Public on meeting privacy\*** In the interests of preventing abuse of video conferencing technology (i.e. Zoom Bombing) all participants, including members of the public, wishing to engage via the Zoom App must register for each meeting and will notice multi-step authentication protocols. Please allow additional time to join the meeting. Further, members of the public who wish to participate without providing their name may still do so by registering to receive the meeting info and using the telephone dial-in information provided.

Please read Governor Baker's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provision of Open Meeting Law for more information regarding virtual public hearings and meetings:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/open-meeting-law-order-march-12-2020/download>

Attendees: Co-Chair Pusey, Commissioners Soneja, Bauer, Brown, Grossman, Horowitz, Carey, Rogers, Carney

Absent: Commissioners Haynes, Jolin, Minton

DEI Office: Jillian Harvey, Christina Coleman

APD: Captain Sean Kiernan

Community Members: Rebecca Gruber

Meeting called to order at 8:00 pm by Co-chair Pusey

Land acknowledgement by Co-chair Pusey

1. Remote Meeting Notice and Land Acknowledgement (5 min)
2. Review of Minutes (5 min)
  - a. Commissioner Bauer motioned to accept minutes as corrected, Commissioner Soneja seconded - *Passed with abstentions* from Commissioner Carney and Horowitz
3. Review of June Community Input (1 min)
  - a. None

4. Co-chair Report (5 min)
  - a. The Chair of the Disability Commission has resigned
  - b. Met with Rainbow Commission Chairs Andy Robinson and Lisa Krinsky
    - i. Discussed last month's Pride events
  - c. Submitted ABLE Training letter of support to Chief Flaherty
    - i. The Chief submitted the application for Georgetown University's ABLE Training
  - d. Co-chairs Jolin & Pusey will send out an email soon about scheduling the commission's annual retreat
5. DEI Division updates (10)
  - a. Harvey – All three commissions have openings; Harvey will be doing outreach to attract applicants; interviews will take place during late August
  - b. Housing Community Conversation went really well – panelists were wonderful
  - c. True Story Theater held a follow-up event that provided a great space for processing the Housing Community Conversation
  - d. Upcoming Community Conversation on August 10<sup>th</sup> – Listening to Differing Perspectives: the Power of Symbolism
  - e. True Story Theater is holding an Active Bystander Training on Tuesday, August 17<sup>th</sup>
  - f. Harvey is working on creating an annual calendar for the year
  - g. Harvey will be coordinating with Margaret Credle Thomas, Schools DEI Director, to align Town and Schools' DEI efforts
  - h. Aiming for January 2022 to resume in-person meetings
  - i. Harvey went before the Joint Committee on Racial Equity, Civil Rights, and Inclusion Public Hearing on behalf of the MA DEI Coalition to advocate for more resources for DEI Divisions
6. Working Group Q&A (10 min)
  - a. Schools and Education –
    - i. Meeting next Monday, July 26<sup>th</sup> at 5pm
    - ii. Drafting letter to new Superintendent Dr. Homan & Schools DEI Director, Margaret Credle Thomas
  - b. Outreach –
    - i. Gathering translations for AHRC flyer; written in Chinese & Spanish, Japanese is in progress – if anyone knows of anyone in their personal network that does translations and wants to help, please reach out to Co-Chair Pusey
    - ii. Discussed how the Commission could handle wide-area complaints, beyond individual complaints (e.g. by holding hearings). Retreat will discuss AHRC complaint process and training opportunities for Commissioners
  - c. Communications –
    - i. Commissioner Brown has given Harvey and Commissioner Pusey access to the AHRC Website
    - ii. Commissioner Brown started coordinated training with some folks; if commissioners are interested in learning more about the website please reach out to Commissioner Brown
  - d. Housing
    - i. Commissioner Brown & Carney plan to circle back with Harvey and Planning Department on Fair Housing Efforts
    - ii. Carney plans to reach out to Fair Housing Advisory Board
  - e. Events

- i. Exit memo was circulated with weekly packet
    - ii. Events Working Group currently does not have a lead
    - iii. Please let Commissioner Pusey know if you are interested in becoming a lead for the group
    - iv. Commissioner Carey inquired about combining the events/outreach working group temporarily
  - f. IPD
    - i. Commissioners Grossman, Pusey, and Soneja met to discuss preparations, including doing research on the current APS curriculum and how it is going to change
    - ii. Group is working on identifying partners and participants for Indigenous People's Day Celebration
  - g. Preventing Gun Violence
    - i. Compiled information for the newsletter; newsletter is almost ready to go
    - ii. Met with Arlington PD and other folks in town to work on the gun buyback program; program is set to take place in late September or early October
    - iii. Arlington PD is working on raising money for gift cards for the gun buyback program
    - iv. Commissioners will help advertise for the event
    - v. Subgroup is meeting Saturday, July 24th at 4pm to shape the event
- 7. MAHRC – Commissioner Bauer (3 min)
  - a. Mass HRC did not meet
- 8. Chief's Advisory Council – Commissioner Grossman (3 min)
  - a. Did not meet
- 9. Diversifying Local Boards and Commissions – Commissioner Grossman (3 min)
  - a. Commissioner Grossman attended; will share materials from the event
  - b. The event discussed barriers to people joining commissions and boards; environment can be intimidating or boring, lack of resources to communicate with the community
  - c. YWCA Boston's CEO presented – working on Parity on Boards Legislation
- 10. Civilian Review Board Exploratory Committee – Commissioner Rogers (3 min)
  - a. Committee has been meeting for the past six months
  - b. Commissioner Rogers is working on a draft interim report; draft is due to the Co-Chairs on August 24<sup>th</sup>
  - c. Committee is doing a lot of research on Civilian Review Boards – four models are being used throughout the country
  - d. Commissioner Rogers is requesting time on the September agenda to discuss AHRC's impact on the Civilian Review Board
- 11. Community Input (15 min)
  - a. None
- 12. Incidents (5 min)
  - a. June/July updates – defacement of one of the Haiku's from the Art Project in the Arlington Heights on Window of Roasted Granola
    - i. The incident happened the night before the event; the artist was able to repair the Haiku before the event
    - ii. Commissioner Jolin attended the Art Project, spoke with owners of the Roasted Granola, and was able to provide them with signs
  - b. Commissioner Grossman reported an incident regarding the porta potty with anti-Semitic graffiti – Captain Kiernan stated the porta potty had been replaced and the graffiti had been removed

- i. Porta potty incident has happened in a number of different porta potties; detective has been canvassing the area for cameras
  - c. Two homes on Park Ave Extension had two signs stolen “Hate has no home here” and “Black Lives Matter” – Commissioner Grossman followed up with both residents; residents expressed their gratitude to the commission and Arlington Police Officer for following up
- 13. Co-Sponsorship Requests
  - a. Mass Peace Action
    - i. Commissioner Grossman motioned to cosponsor the Mass Peace Action event, Bauer seconded, motioned passed unanimously
- 14. Budget Discussion (30 min)
  - a. Commission started to think about what to spend budget on (e.g. outreach, events, honorariums)
  - b. Reserve money in budget for events that Commission wants to continue and expand
  - c. Possible celebrations to discuss include:
    - i. International Human Rights Day on December 10<sup>th</sup>
    - ii. Black History Month
    - iii. Earth Day
- 15. Announcements (5 min)
  - a. Intern status
    - i. Interns should start applying in early September
  - b. Coffee Chats
    - i. June Coffee Chat (Brown/Minton) – Coffee chat did not happen
    - ii. July Coffee Chat (Minton/Grossman) – July 29<sup>th</sup> at 6pm
    - iii. August Coffee Chat (Bauer/Carney) – Commissioner Carney will contact Patsy Kraemer at the Farmer’s Market to discuss AHRC having a booth to hold coffee chat at and sell signs
  - c. Incident Handling
    - i. June – Grossman
    - ii. July – Brown
    - iii. August – Jolin

**Next meeting:** August 18, 2021, 8:00 pm, Remote Participation.

Anyone needing accessibility information or other assistance to attend this meeting should contact Jillian Harvey, [jharvey@town.arlington.ma.us](mailto:jharvey@town.arlington.ma.us). This meeting is open to all interested individuals.